

PZ 2915 JAN 21 1962

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|-----------------|---|------------|---|
| <b>DISPATCH</b> | CLASSIFICATION<br><b>S-E-C-R-E-T</b>    | PROCESSING |   |
|                 |   | PRO-POSED  | ACTION  |
| TO              | Chief, Munich Operations Group          | <b>X</b>   | MARKED FOR INDEXING                                 |
| INFO.           | COS, Germany COB, Frankfurt COB, Berlin |            | NO INDEXING REQUIRED                                |
| FROM            | Chief, SR                               |            | ONLY QUALIFIED HEADQUARTERS DESK CAN JUDGE INDEXING |
|                 |   |            | ABSTRACT  |
|                 |   |            | MICROFILM   |

SUBJECT  
**CANOG/REDWOOD/REDSKIN - Talivaldis MEDNIS (AKA Talivaldis MEDNE)**

ACTION REQUIRED - REFERENCES

Action Required: See Paragraphs 7 and 8

References: A. EGMA-57160, 20 December 1961  
B. EGMA-71472, 24 January 1962  
C. EGMA-16699, 13 June 1957 (Not sent Berlin and Munich)

1. Headquarters traces revealed the following information on the Subject:

a. Talivaldis Eizens MEDNIS, born 10 February 1929 in Riga, Latvia. Resided on Liela Kaleju Street 55, Apartment 3, on 11 November 1939, from where he repatriated to Nazi Germany.

S.O.I. - "Izcelojusu Vacu Tautibas Pilsonu Saraksts" (List of Emigrating German Nationals), published by the Administrative Department, Ministry of Interior, Riga, Latvia, in 1940.

b. Talivaldis MEDNIS was interviewed by the KUBARK Principal Agents ☐ (now deceased) and ☐ from 23 February through 3 March 1957.

S.O.I. - Reference "C" (cc attached for MOG and Berlin)

2. In addition to the above, Headquarters traces revealed information on the following four individuals, who may be identical with the parents and two sisters of Subject, all of whom resided with Subject on 11 November 1939 at the same address: Liela Kaleju iela #55, Apartment 3.

(Continued)

Attachment: h/w  
Reference C (for MOG and Berlin)

Distribution:  
2 - MOG, w/att.  
2 - COB, Berlin, w/att.  
2 - COS, Germany  
2 - COB, Frankfurt

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|  |                                  |   |  |
|--|----------------------------------|---|--|
| DATE TYPED<br>20 Feb 1962  |                                  | DATE DISPATCHED<br>23 FEB 1962  |  |
| DISPATCH SYMBOL AND NUMBER<br>EGMA-11544   |                                  | HEADQUARTERS FILE NUMBER<br><input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> |  |
| CLASSIFICATION<br><b>S-E-C-R-E-T</b>   |                                  | ORIGINATING<br>OFFICE<br>SR/2/B/Latvia <input type="checkbox"/>               |  |
| OFFICER<br><input type="checkbox"/>  |                                  | TYPIST<br>bbh   |  |
| COORDINATING<br><input type="checkbox"/>   |                                  | EXT.<br>8256  |  |
| OFFICE SYMBOL<br>CSR/2   | DATE<br><input type="checkbox"/> | OFFICER'S NAME<br><input type="checkbox"/>                                    |  |
| CSR/3  |                                  |   |  |
| EE/G   |                                  |   |  |
| DECLASSIFIED AND APPROVED FOR RELEASE BY THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY<br>Date: 2005 |                                  |   |  |
| RELEASING<br>OFFICE SYMBOL<br>C/EE/G   |                                  | OFFICER'S SIGNATURE   |  |

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)  
( ) Privacy ☐  
( ) Methods/Sources ☒  
( ) Foreign Relations ☐

Sub ☐ 02 ng #2 + #3

a. Eizena MEDNIS, born 11 February 1897, Riga, Latvia. (Possibly identical with the father of Subject.)

b. Lidija MEDNIS nee MICHELSONS, born 21 February 1902 in Riga, Latvia. (Possibly identical with the mother of Subject.)

c. Rasma MEDNIS, born 1 August 1926 in Riga, Latvia. (Possibly identical with a sister of Subject.)

d. Helga Irene MEDNIS, born 26 February 1935 in Riga, Latvia. (Possibly identical with a sister of Subject.)

All of the above individuals repatriated from Riga, Latvia, to Nazi Germany on 15 November 1939 along with Subject.

3. According to ☐ ☐ unsuccessfully tried to contact Subject a number of times in 1956 or 1957. However, ☐ ☐ did learn that Subject had traveled to England more than once to visit his "girl friend", Olga ZARINS. Olga ZARINS, by the way, is the sister of the KUBARK REDSOX agent, ☐ ☐ As you may recall, ☐ ☐ was dispatched to Soviet Latvia in 1953 and was never heard from again. Several years later, in September 1957, the Latvian KGB surfaced the KUBARK ARCOB REDSOX operation and reported the capture of ☐ ☐ Based on the information provided by ☐ ☐ Headquarters feels that MEDNIS most probably befriended and visited Olga ZARINS in London sometime prior to the September 1957 surfacing. While the visits may have been coincidental and bear no relation to the surfacing of the REDSOX operation involving ☐ ☐ certain suspicion arises as to how the Subject was able to afford trips to London so soon after his arrival in West Berlin from Soviet Latvia. Headquarters wonders why Subject struck up a friendship with Olga ZARINS, who is approximately ten (10) years his senior, especially since there are so many eligible Latvian girls in Germany. In the absence of additional facts, it is conceivable that Subject was dispatched by the KGB to investigate the sister's possible involvement with or knowledge of the REDSOX operation. As far as Olga ZARINS is concerned, Headquarters traces reveal that one other person, Mrs. Helma LAPINS nee SLIPSE, a Soviet Latvian guide at the 1961 Soviet Exhibition in London, has befriended Olga Zarins. According to EGPA-22418, dated 6 August 1958, Helma LAPINS visited West Germany for a few months in 1958 where she contacted ☐ ☐ At that time LAPINS conveyed an impression that she wanted to be recruited by a Western intelligence service, and FOB suspected that she might be a KGB provocation. It appears that LAPINS is identical with the woman (BU) whom ☐ ☐ reported (Per attachment "C" to EGMA-46623, dated 15 January 1960) was an "employee" in the Hotel "Riga" in November 1959. This woman (BU) told ☐ ☐ that she had visited with ☐ ☐

4. Headquarters would also like to bring to your attention the fact that Subject furnished the name of Dzidra SVEILIS to ☐ ☐ in early 1961 as a potential operational contact in Riga, Latvia. In the early 1950's Dzidra SVEILIS' sister, Marea HAULTAIN nee SVEILIS of PEPRINE, was once considered by KUBARK as a REDSOX agent. However, HAULTAIN's participation in the operation never materialized, although she was actually approached and assessed. The REDSOX agent, ☐ ☐ (surfaced by the KGB together with ☐ ☐ in 1957) was aware of KUBARK's interest in Marga HAULTAIN. It is reasonable to assume that the KGB also became aware of this and that HAULTAIN's sister, Dzidra SVEILIS of Riga, may have been placed on the KGB watch list, surveilled, or even recruited by the KGB. This becomes a more realistic security matter when it is realized that Dzidra SVEILIS is presently living in PEPRINE with her sister, Mrs. HAULTAIN. When she was approached by a KUBARK officer in 1961, she was most uncooperative and denied any knowledge of ARCOB REDSOX operations, even though the Soviet Latvian press had run a series of articles concerning these operations while she was still residing in Riga.

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CONTINUATION OF  
DISPATCH

CLASSIFICATION  
S-E-C-R-E-T

DISPATCH SYMBOL AND NO.  
ECNW-11544

5. Based on information available at Headquarters and as outlined above, it is quite possible that MEDNIS may have been dispatched by the KGB with a mission to befriend Olga ZARINS and to ingratiate himself with the Latvian community in the West. It would be interesting to determine whether Subject has made contact with Dzidra SVEILIS or with Betty ALKSHIT since their arrival in the West from Latvia. Pending the development of additional information on Subject, ☐ both of whom have recommended Subject for clandestine work, should be instructed to exercise extreme caution when in contact with him and should be thoroughly debriefed on their contacts with and knowledge of Subject. For the time being, please do not reveal to ☐ the material contained in this dispatch. At a later date it may be advantageous to question ☐ concerning their knowledge of the other individuals mentioned in this dispatch, especially ALKSHIT, ZARINS and SVEILIS, but for the time being this should not be done.

6. FOB: Talivaldis MEDNIS was elected Chairman of the ELJA (Latvian European Youth Association) in Copenhagen, Denmark, in August 1961. Because of NOG and BOB operational interest in Subject, it is requested that ☐ be queried regarding Subject, including ☐ knowledge of the Subject's friendship and contacts with Olga ZARINS. Please transmit information copies of your reply to BOB and NOG.

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